

TED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Katsumi KIMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3681

Serial No.: 10/505,218

Examiner:

Filed: August 20, 2004

Confirmation No.: 5157

For: DIFFERENTIAL PLANETARY GEAR APPARATUS AND STARTING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DIFFERENTIAL PLANETARY

**GEAR APPARATUS** 

Attorney Docket Number: 042688

Customer Number: 38834

## REQUEST FOR REFUND

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 6, 2005

Sir:

A Utility Patent Application was filed on August 20, 2004 which included a Preliminary Amendment to delete multiple dependent claims. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment with the serial number stamp, which was printed from PAIR is attached.

A deposit charge of \$290.00 (Fee Code 1616) was subsequently charged on January 24, 2005. A copy of the PTO Deposit Account for January 2005 is attached. Applicants do not recognize this charge for anything that has been filed in the referenced application. To further support that the fee was received and recorded by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of the Patent Application Determination Record as printed from PAIR is also attached. This printout verifies that the claims were amended to delete multiple dependencies.

Request for Refund Serial No. 10/505,218 Attorney Docket No. 042688

Applicants request that the Patent Office refund the amount of \$290.00 to Deposit Account 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

Scott M. Daniels Registration No. 32,562

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SMD/lde

Enclosures: Deposit Account Monthly Statement of January 2005

Preliminary Amendment with received stamp Patent Application Fee Determination Record

Adjustment date: 05/31/2006 KWILLIAM 06/06/06/08 502866 105/05/218



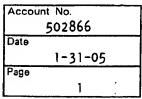
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# MONTHLY STATEMENT OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

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10/505218

# ATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of: Katsumi KIMURA et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

(§371 of international application No. PCT/JP03/01922)

Filed: August 20, 2004

For: DIFFERENTIAL PLANETARY GEAR APPARATUS AND STARTING

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DIFFERENTIAL PLANETARY

**GEAR APPARATUS** 

Attorney Docket No.: 042688

Customer Number: 38834

# **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 20, 2004

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

#### **Listing of Claims**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

 (Previously presented): A differential planetary gear apparatus characterized in that: said differential planetary gear apparatus has a single-pinion-type structure in which one planetary gear is arranged in a radial direction and one or more planetary gears are arranged in a circumferential direction in a region between a sun gear and a ring gear;

a drive source, a speed-change motive source, and a driven unit are disposed at any one of an input side, an output side, and a speed-change side, respectively;

said speed-change motive source comprises an electric motor; and

when starting said driven unit, said drive source and said speed-change motive source are started at the same time, or said speed-change motive source is started after said drive source reaches a rated rotational speed.

- 2. (Previously presented): A differential planetary gear apparatus characterized in that: a planetary gear is disposed in a region between a sun gear and a ring gear;
- a drive source, a speed-change motive source, and a driven unit are disposed at any one of an input side, an output side, and a speed-change side, respectively;

said speed-change motive source comprises an electric motor;

supply of electric power to said speed-change motive source is stopped when said driven unit is decelerated so that said speed-change motive source generates electric power; and

when starting said driven unit, said drive source and said speed-change motive source are started at the same time, or said speed-change motive source is started after said drive source reaches a rated rotational speed.

- 3. (Original): A differential planetary gear apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the electric power generated by said speed-change motive source is supplied to a resistance means.
- 4. (Original): A differential planetary gear apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the electric power generated by said speed-change motive source is returned to a power source of said speed-change motive source.
- 5. (Original): A differential planetary gear apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the electric power generated by said speed-change motive source is supplied to a storage means.
- 6. (Original): A starting apparatus for a differential planetary gear apparatus having a sun gear, a ring gear, and one or more planetary gears and having a structure in which a drive source, a speed-change motive source, and a driven unit are disposed at any one of an input side, an output side, and a speed-change side, respectively, said starting apparatus characterized in that:

said drive source is energized after a rotational speed of said drive source is increased to nearly a rated rotational speed by a starting means;

said starting means comprises said speed-change motive source, a speed-increasing means provided at an output side of said speed-change motive source, and a rotation transmitting assembly for transmitting rotation from an output side of said speed-increasing means to said drive source; and

said rotation transmitting assembly serves as gears and rotating shafts of said differential planetary gear apparatus.

- 7. (Original): A starting apparatus for a differential planetary gear apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a stop means is provided on a rotating shaft connected to said ring gear, and said stop means is operated so as to lock said ring gear while the rotational speed of said drive source is increased by said starting means.
- 8. (Currently amended): A starting apparatus for a differential planetary gear apparatus according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein said speed-increasing means comprises a mechanical transmission.
- 9. (Currently amended): A starting apparatus for a differential planetary gear apparatus according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein said speed-increasing means comprises an inverter motor and an inverter.
- 10. (Currently amended): A starting apparatus for a differential planetary gear apparatus according to any one of claims 6 to 9 claim 6, wherein:

said differential planetary gear apparatus has a single-pinion-type structure in which one planetary gear is arranged in a radial direction and one or more planetary gears are arranged in a circumferential direction in a region between said sun gear and said ring gear; and

said speed-change motive source comprises an electric motor.

11. (Original): A starting method for a differential planetary gear apparatus having a sun gear, a ring gear, and one or more planetary gears and having a structure in which a drive source,

a speed-change motive source, and a driven unit are disposed at any one of an input side, an output side, and a speed-change side, respectively, said starting method characterized by:

operating a brake so as to lock said ring gear when starting said drive source; starting an inverter and an inverter motor so as to rotate said drive source at a predetermined rotational speed;

energizing said drive source to start said drive source at the predetermined rotational speed; and

operating said drive source in a normal operation state.

### **REMARKS**

PCT Article 34, to remove the multiple dependency of the claims and to place the application in better condition for examination. An English translation of the annexes of the Amendment under PCT Article 34 is enclosed.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submi

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(A) RIAN, LLP

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 29,988

WFW/yap 1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 822-1100

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